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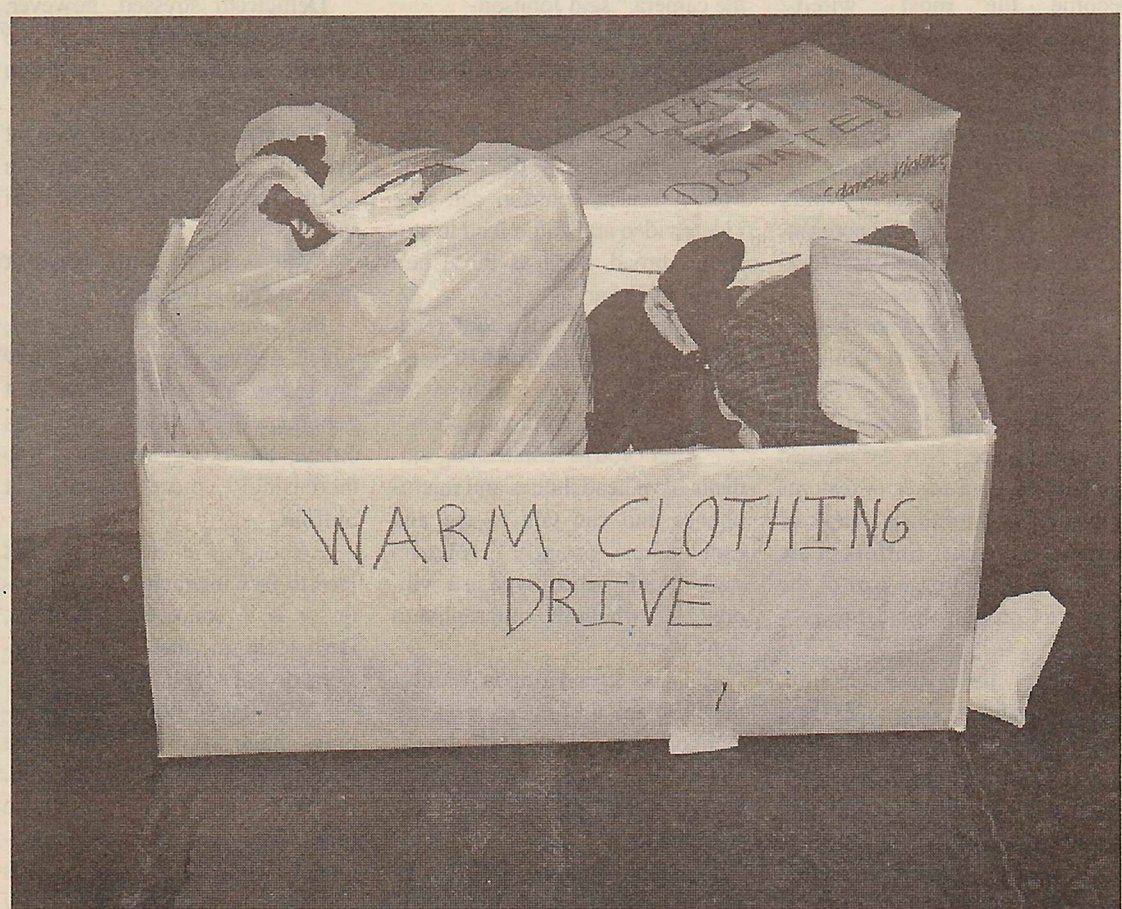
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Uplifting holiday spirits, SOULS reaches out



Suzi Brander - Journal Staff

Students are asked to donate warm winter clothing, money or canned goods in an effort to help others this holiday season.

Amy Farnsworth
Journal Staff

November is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month. Suffolk University's community service group S.O.U.L.S. (Suffolk Organization for Uplifting Lives through Service) will continue to accept donations of canned goods and warm clothing until Dec. 9. These items will be donated to local Boston area shelters to benefit the homeless.

Donation boxes can be found in all major Suffolk University buildings and residence halls.

The S.O.U.L.S. office has already begun to accumulate boxes of canned goods and clothing for holiday donations. Over 1,000 non-perishable items and \$421 have been donated, according to service scholar junior Chantha Toeum.

"Everyone was really eager and we've gotten a lot of clothes and shoes," service scholar and sophomore Kayla Lathrop said.

S.O.U.L.S. members went to both residence halls three times to complete a "dorm storm" in order to

collect items and money for the drive.

"Students are short on food themselves, but they are always still willing to donate ramen and granola bars," Lathrop said.

Already, S.O.U.L.S. has surpassed its original goal for the food drive as well as last year's total amount of items.

"All the goals I've set have been met and went beyond. I am happy to see the level of commitment that the students have helped with volunteering and donating. It goes a long way," Toeum said.

In addition to the food and clothing drive, Toeum gave disposable cameras to the homeless to document a day in the life of a homeless person. The pictures were displayed in an exhibit, "24 Hours: Through the Eyes of a Homeless Person." The pictures are now displayed on the 4th floor of the Donahue building.

"I think the exhibit and the Oxfam banquet helped to open up people's eyes and to get people to donate," Toeum said.

Read the real life story of one former homeless woman on pg. 3

Coffee with a conscience

Fair trade campaign continues, signatures turned into Sodexo management

Brian Messenger
Journal Staff

Suffolk junior Woodrow Curley is on a mission. Fresh from an afternoon gathering signatures in the Donahue Café, he arrived for an interview with *The Suffolk Journal* holding a 16oz Starbucks coffee cup that read, "It's time for mistletoe kisses."

But Curley wasn't drinking Starbucks. He was merely reusing the cup a friend planned on throwing away for his organic chai tea. In fact, Curley's the man spearheading the effort to remove Starbucks coffee from university cafeterias altogether.

If successful, Curley, along with the group Suffolk Students for Peace and Justice, would help bring locally roasted and Fair Trade Certified Equal Exchange coffee to Suffolk.

"Fair trade isn't a flavor, but Starbucks seems to promote it that way," Curley explained. "Fair trade is an economic practice."

During the week of Nov. 15-19, SUSPJ collected nearly 400

signatures in the Donahue Café in support of their efforts to bring fair trade coffee to the university. After sending them to General Manager of Dining Services and Sodexo employee Tom Fuller, the group will now wait for his

"I saw how hard these people had to work and how deprived they were,"

Woodrow Curley
Students for Peace and Justice

reply, all while continuing their efforts to gain the student body's support.

"For Suffolk consumers ... [Starbucks] only offers one blend of Fair Trade Certified coffee," Curley said. "It's a mild blend ... it won't sell."

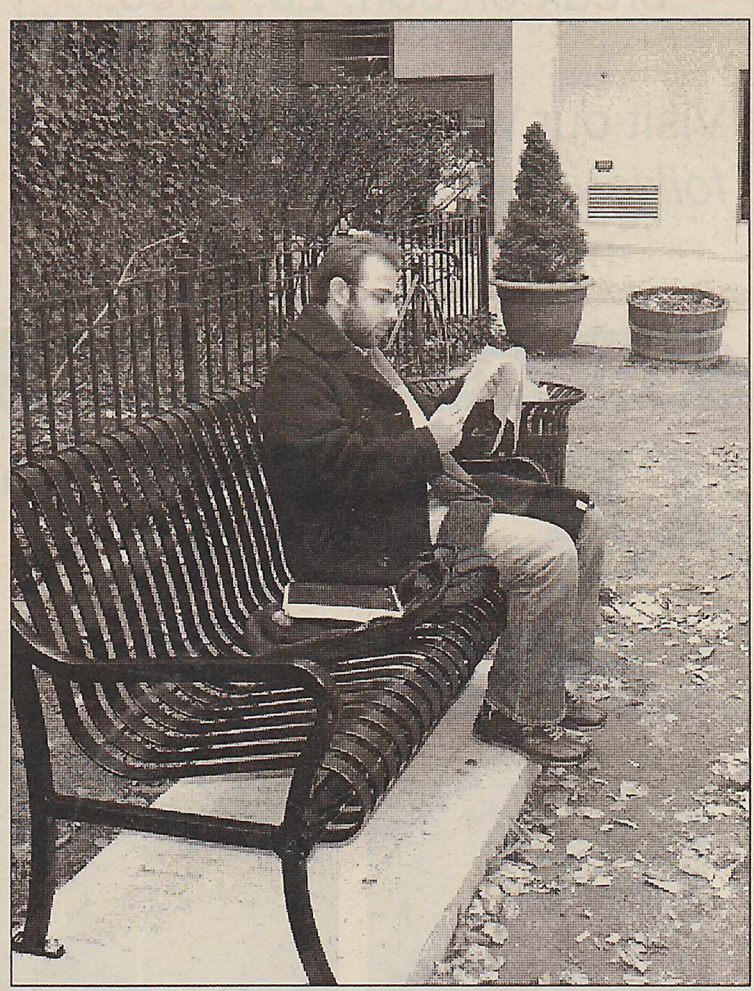
According to Fuller, who has been working at Suffolk for five years, Sodexo ordered this blend within three days of Curley's

proposition to purvey fair trade coffee. In opposition to SUSPJ's claim that just one percent of Starbucks beans are actually Fair Trade Certified, Fuller, after speaking to a Starbucks representative, said, "Although it's not a huge number, it's actually closer to five percent."

"As a local general manager, I don't have a whole lot of say from who we buy from," Fuller said. Fuller admitted that Sodexo "negotiates deals that cover the whole United States and North America," which makes it harder to break existing contracts in order to do business with local companies.

According to Curley, Equal Exchange operates out of Canton, Mass. and was founded in 1986, during the US embargo on Nicaragua. "They were created specifically to help coffee farmers," he said, and the first roaster in the country to use fair trade beans.

"We are in such close proximity [to Equal Exchange] ... for us see **COFFEE**, page 4



Suzi Brander - Journal Staff

Taking a break

Senior Sean Brown sits on one of the new benches installed in Alumni Park last week. The new benches replace the older stone benches.

NEWS Briefs

New technology transforms university classrooms

'Rebel' billionaire interacts with Suffolk via satellite lecture

Senior class goes to SGA for final vote

Senior Class President Jess Pappas and Treasurer Chris Aguiar presented the request for \$19,250 to fund Senior Week events. The SGA finance committee approved the request Tue. Nov. 30 by a vast majority. The request now heads to Thursday's Student Government Association meeting where it will be voted on by the entire board.

Evening of Holiday Entertainment

The Performing Arts Office has planned an evening of Holiday Entertainment for Tue. Dec. 7 at 7pm. The show will feature Suffolk's Chorus, Dance Team, and the co-ed a cappella group, The Ramifications. The free event will be held in the C. Walsh Theatre.

Help needed to decorate Beacon Hill

SOULS is seeking volunteers to help dress Beacon Hill for the holidays. The event will take place Sat., Dec. 4 from 10:30 am-3:00pm. This popular holiday event will also offer free snacks and hot coco. To volunteer RSVP with SOULS via e-mail: souls@suffolk.edu

Program Council plans holiday ball

Program Council presented their request for funds to the SGA finance committee Tue., Nov. 30 to supplement the upcoming holiday ball being held Fri., Dec. 10. This request was also approved and will go forth to be voted on by the SGA general assembly.

Tickets continue to be sold for the annual dance being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The \$15 tickets are available at the HUB, located in the Donahue Lobby.

Christopher DeFillippi

Journal Staff

In order to stay ahead of the curve as colleges compete to become the most "wired," Suffolk's Educational Technology Committee is geared towards acquiring the latest information technology and integrating it into the university's curriculum.

Physics Professor Walter Johnson, the chair of the committee, is already using the latest technologies for his courses.

"Now, I can teach a course here to a collection of students in Dakar," Johnson said.

Much of this technology is already in place. Nov. 30 marked the final day in a series of lectures delivered by prominent speakers beamed into the Suffolk Law School via satellite, as part of the graduate Corporate Education program.

During the final lecture, Richard Branson, Virgin CEO and Chairman and star of the reality series "The Rebel Billionaire," talked to a gathering of about 25 viewers, mostly graduate students.

By calling a number on their cell phones, the students had the opportunity to ask Branson questions about his business as well as the business culture in general.

Suffolk was only one of several organizations participating in the event, as there were calls from (among other places) Bentley College, the headquarters of the Kellogg Cereal Corporation in Battle Creek, Michigan and a call from NASA.

At Suffolk, the arrangement was relatively simple.

The attendants sat at about

seven tables as images of Branson appeared on a large screen in the conference room.

"The oldest of these technologies is video conferencing, where you have to be in the room with the camera," said Johnson.

Johnson was quick to point out that the technology has gone much farther.

Through the use of the cameras and microphones in the Donahue Media Center, Johnson can provide a video and audio feed to students abroad, such as those he's taught in Dakar.

As opposed to video conferencing, such as the Richard Branson lecture, this process allows for greater two-way communication.

"After you're connected, students have headphones and microphones and can talk to me and each other instantly," Johnson said. "And you can type in a window for when the microphones don't work."

He also uses Horizon Wimba, the program that integrates these technologies, to display graphs and write physics equations with a tool similar to MS Paint.

Director of Campus Computing Thomas Dellicicchi, also a member of the committee, lauded the benefits of this technology.

"An instructor, anywhere, can hold a live class on the web with two-way audio capability," Dellicicchi said.

"And the whole thing is archived, so the student can go back to it at any time. It's a canned lecture, basically, and it's always there for student review."

Johnson agreed the recording capabilities were particularly useful. "Students stuck overseas and

who can't get back in time, say, because of post-9/11 security concerns, now won't fall behind," Johnson said.

"These programs will give Suffolk a competitive edge."

Dellicicchi stressed, however, that the technology would also benefit students on the main Boston campus.

"I don't want it to be thought that this is just for students in Madrid and Dakar," Dellicicchi said.

"You want to think about it more as online learning."

Programs such as Blackboard, which, among other things, allow professors and students to post general discussion questions online, are being integrated into increasingly more courses at Suffolk.

Although he expressed that face-to-face interaction with a professor is in some ways superior, Dellicicchi said that online discussions do have advantages.

"You know how you sometimes have students who don't want to raise their hands," he said.

"Well, here, they'll participate more. They can even post anonymously." Dellicicchi said he was happy with how widely the new technologies are being used.

"At first, Blackboard was mostly just the sciences, but now, you name it, and there are professors using blackboard for it," he said.

"They put up the goals of the class, discussion points and it uploads major parts of the textbooks they're reading."

Since the college started using Blackboard a little over a year ago, instructors have used the program for 285 courses as of this fall.

The last *Journal* issue of the semester is Dec. 8.

We will return after the holiday break on Jan. 26, 2005.

Visit our website at www.suffolkjournal.net for more information on ad rates.

Voices of Suffolk

Q: "What gift are you most looking forward to getting this holiday season?"



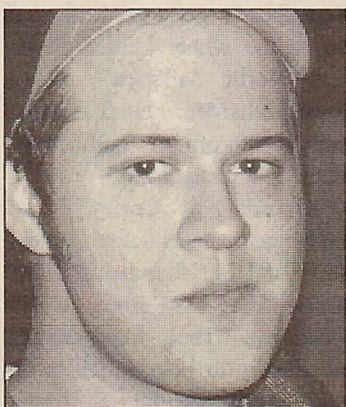
"Money."

Melody Vuong
Junior



"A guitar."

Marc Charette
Freshman



"An ipod."

Brian Anastas
Junior



"A laptop."

Laura Gallo
Junior



"Plane tickets for spring break."

Lisa McGovern
Sophomore

Compiled by: Jenn O' Callaghan

Students increase awareness in wake of attack

Claire Jeffers

Journal Staff

The rape of a young Beacon Hill resident on Nov. 14 has left a sense of shock and caution among students at Suffolk. Some say campus security has done what they can to help prevent another similar scenario from happening, but others feel there is more to be done.

Sophomore Heather Cox was around the Beacon Hill area at the same time the rape took place, returning a movie at Mike's Movies on Cambridge Street.

"It was so close it kind of hits home," she said. A resident at the 150 Tremont dormitory, Cox now takes extra care while walking around the neighborhood. "If I do walk by myself I stay on the main roads, or

I walk with my boyfriend or a group of people," she said. "Everyone is a little more cautious."

Just last week, Cox offered to take her friend to the airport, just to be on the safe side. While a member of Suffolk's volleyball team this fall, Cox would typically walk home with her teammates.

She recalls that campus security was oftentimes slow to react when asked to unlock doors or assist them at a nearby building. As for the situation at hand, Cox said she does not see what else campus security can do at this point.

Freshman Shannon Slattery feels that Suffolk Police have made a strong effort in terms of getting information out to the student body. "I think they're doing the best they can," she said. "They've done a good

job at gathering meetings and sending out notices."

Slattery, also a resident of 150 Tremont, feels that students should be allowed to carry mace or pepper spray in order to feel more protected. Students are warned at the beginning of their freshman year that these items are not allowed on campus grounds, but many find it necessary to protect themselves while in the city. "My safety and my protection means more to me than the rule of not being allowed to have [mace]," Slattery said.

"If women are walking around with rapists and predators, they should be protected." In order to possess mace, one must receive a license from their local police department. This is exactly what Junior Sandra Sensano-Ruiz did while commuting

back and forth to school on the commuter rail her freshman year. Now a resident in Malden, Ruiz takes the orange line every day, but often does not leave campus until eight o'clock at night or later.

When she heard about the rape, Ruiz could not believe that something like this could happen on Beacon Hill. "It could've happened to anyone. I don't walk by myself, but it's just unfortunate that this girl was by herself."

As a commuter, Ruiz thinks that Suffolk should put together a list of people who commute on the same subway or commuter rail lines.

In that case, she explained, if someone wanted a "buddy" to walk to the train station with, they could easily call or e-mail someone to coordinate with.

Young woman overcomes adversity on the streets

Amy Farnsworth

Journal Staff

Every day the homeless line the streets - some panhandle for money, others sell the newspaper "Spare Change." Some people wait on street corners in hopes for a bed for a night from the local shelter. As winter draws nearer, the fear of hypothermia becomes a reality for the homeless. With limited space in many shelters, a number of homeless people are left without a place to spend the night.

"I really needed blankets. The ground is cold and hard; you need something under you. I would get army blankets from shelters," said Crystal Evans, 23. "The stuff that people donated really helped me to survive. I would've died last winter."

Evans spent last winter on the streets of Boston and Cambridge. Evans' homelessness began in February of 2001, when she suffered injuries from a car accident that left her with a broken neck, a traumatic brain injury and a seizure disorder.

Her brain injury caused her to suffer from ataxia and vertigo, speech problems and short term memory loss.

The injuries made it hard for Evans to hold down a job, as she lost nine jobs in 16

months following the accident.

Without a job Evans couldn't obtain health insurance or benefits and without health insurance for her medication and rehab she was left with little money to survive on.

She applied for Medicaid and Social Security Disability in New Hampshire, but was asked to provide medical documentation of her injury. In order to receive the documentation for her case, she would need to have medical insurance. But without insurance, she said, she could not receive the proper documentation.

In the summer of 2002, Evans received a job and housing through a Section 8 voucher, but due to complications with her brain injury and rent, she became homeless again in February 2003.

Evans traveled to Massachusetts when she discovered the state offered free health care to low-income residents. She spent time at a shelter in Gloucester, Mass., but over time the shelter began to run out of beds.

Evans then traveled to Boston and applied for the Section 8 voucher to obtain housing, Medicaid and Social Security Disability. In May 2003, she was approved for Medicaid and began to receive treat-

ments and health benefits for her brain injury.

In July 2003, Evans then received Social Security benefits that allowed her to begin physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy. Although Evans had all of the benefits and income she needed, she still did not have housing. The Section 8 waitlists were two-to-three years long; all Evans could do was wait for a place to live.

When Evans wasn't spending a night in the shelters, she would stay below the Tannery in Harvard Square, where she could keep dry and relatively warm. Sheltered from the wind, she would spend the night with a friend, a homeless veteran and a retired Cambridge police officer, who would protect her and provide body heat.

When the shelters were closed, Evans would spend her time in the Boston Public Library, updating accounts of her daily life in an online Live Journal as "the anonymous homeless girl."

Before Evans became homeless, she paid for three months of her cell phone bill and for storage with a check she had received from her previous job. Evans would set a cell phone alarm every 15 minutes, and when the alarm went off she would get up and move around in order to prevent

hypothermia.

"Despite my brain injury, I felt that I could stay outside," Evans said.

When it became too cold outside, Evans would spend hours in the MIT library reading a book she needed for a class at the Harvard Extension School. Because of her brain injury, Evans was able to attend school for medical assistance. Other times she would ride the red line back and forth for a few hours and sleep on the train. At night she would sit at the Diesel Café and write her school papers on an old laptop a friend had given her. When she had class, she would enter the classroom with her arms full of duffel bags.

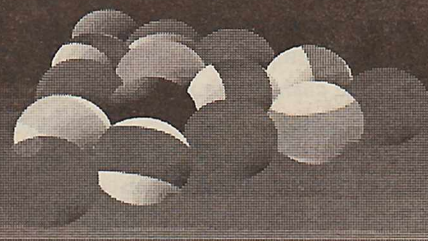
During her time on the streets, Evans wore a fleece sweatshirt and boys' clothes. She would cover everything but her eyes in order to not reveal her gender and avoid the possibility of being raped.

Evans never panhandled to survive. Instead she found other ways to live. She ate from dumpsters and soup kitchens and collected cans for money. Some days she would participate in walks and events in order to get a free meal and a t-shirt. In order to keep her mind off being homeless, she spent time volunteering at the Ronald

see **HOMELESS**, page 11

SSOM Undergraduate Day at

THE RACK



24 Clinton Street / Faneuil Hall

Saturday
Dec 4

1-4 pm

RSVP on the WEB

No Tickets Required
www.sawyer.suffolk.edu
Click on News & Events

Bring a Guest

Billiards Tournament

Free Food

New exhibit showcases wonders of Senegal

Christopher DeFillippi

Journal Staff

On Friday, Nov. 19 adjunct Professor Ken Martin and students who have studied photography with him showcased color photographs they had taken in Senegal over the years. Opening in the Project Space gallery at the New England School of Art and Design, the photographs on display captured a wide variety of the indigenous people as well as their artwork, costumes, rituals and the Senegalese landscape.

"I was proud of all of the art work and just wish that we had more space for each student's photographs," said Martin of the student contributions.

The title of the exhibition, "God's Bits of Wood," was taken from the title of a 1961 novel about the Senegalese War with the French colonists. The title specifically refers to the Senegalese term for children and loved ones, a common theme through-

out the exhibit.

A photo by Suffolk graduate Nicole Wang, the image consisting almost exclusively of varying shades of brown and gold, featured a wide-eyed young girl standing in front of a parched desert landscape. Suffolk graduate Victoria Masters shot a colorful arrangement of children's dolls that were lined up so that they appeared to be dancing.

"You could tell, some of these children had never seen blue eyes before," said senior Carol Lee Mayon, who had taken a number of photographs of children. "They'd look up at you like you were a monster from outer-space."

The gallery was decorated with various items brought from Senegal for the purpose of decoration. Some of these included a small wooden sculpture of a goateed old man smoking a pipe, handcrafted clay pots, and hand-woven baskets and placemats positioned near books of additional photographs. Professor of History Robert

Bellinger, with his friend Kimani Lumsden, provided musical accompaniment for the evening, drumming out traditional music indigenous to Guinea.

"Dr. Bob Bellinger and fellow drummer Kimani really called the African spirits of hospitality, goodwill and protection into the gallery with their excellent drum work," said Martin of the performers.

Some of the more common images associated with Africa, images of warfare and starvation, were absent from the showing. Most of the photos were of beautiful landscapes, intricate tribal costumes, and humorous scenarios.

One of these included a photo by Suffolk graduate Fiona Gerety of a man and a woman sitting casually in a doorway of a building painted brightly green and emblazoned with an ad for Fujicolor film.

Martin showed off a photograph of a painting he had taken of a Senegalese shaman wearing a colorful head-dress, red

and black face paint, and holding a 10,000 franc Central African note in his mouth.

"This is a shaman who you could pay to put a curse on people," Martin explained to a few on-looking guests. He then noted that the shaman would often curse participants in wrestling matches, where spectators often gambled on who would win.

The exhibit also included paintings. There were several paintings and charcoal drawings of traditionally dressed women and children by Martin's wife, Verjick-Abramian Martin.

Suffolk graduate Victoria Masters contributed an abstract painting of a woman's silhouette, floral patterns and drums made with black, peach, and orange spray-paint and stencils.

"God's Bits of Wood" is on exhibit until Dec. 23. Although another photography trip to Senegal is not being planned at the present time, there may be a trip to Madrid in the fall.

<http://suffolkjournal.net>

Crusade for coffee

COFFEE from page 1

not to use it with our fair trade necessities just seems illogical," Curley said. "And the only thing that prevents us from doing so is that we contract our food services with Sodexho, [who] don't have their roots in the Boston area."

Curley, 22, a transfer student from the Technical Vocational Institute in Albuquerque, N.M., may not have roots in the Boston area either, but when it comes to fair trade action and awareness, he is quite the experienced individual.

In his three semesters at TVI, student population 17,000, Curley successfully did exactly what he's trying to do here at Suffolk - replace Starbucks with a locally roasted, Fair Trade Certified coffee brand.

"We got a lot of positive reaction. A lot of folks didn't like the Starbucks coffee ... they wanted an alternative simply for taste reasons ... they felt the change was a positive thing."

After his last semester at TVI, Curley began his summer by going to San Francisco as an intern with the international human rights organization Global Exchange, working in their fair trade department. From there, Curley went on an 11-day trip to a Nicaraguan coffee farm with the United Students for Fair Trade, a inter-campus network that helps student groups startup fair trade campaigns.

"I saw how hard these people had to work and how deprived they were," Curley said of his trip and how it has continued to influence his efforts to spread fair trade awareness. "And it was the least I could do."

Upon returning Curley spent just a few weeks in New Mexico before heading east to begin his fall semester here at Suffolk.

"We just need to make fair trade a standard. I mean, there shouldn't even be a question about it," a determined Curley said. "It guarantees workers, who we depend upon

[and] who grow the agricultural products that we use to nourish our bodies, at a livable wage and sustainable existence."

Though it's easy to think Suffolk's typical coffee-drinking collegians might not consider the economic practices behind each cup they drink, Curley believes the city is a great place to run a fair trade campaign, calling Boston "way ahead of where we are in New Mexico" when it comes to awareness of the issue.

Still, Fuller emphasized, "There's a lot involved with changing companies," citing the "rigid standards" both Starbucks and Sodexho apply to the contracts they give out.

"Sodexho's pretty selective with how they come up with approved purveyors ... especially food products," said Fuller.

"I believe my company contracts with good companies," Fuller said, who explained that "there's a million things involved with" Sodexho's purchasing decisions.

"It goes back to the standards Sodexho imposes on our purveyors ... they research and they don't just do it on price," Fuller said.

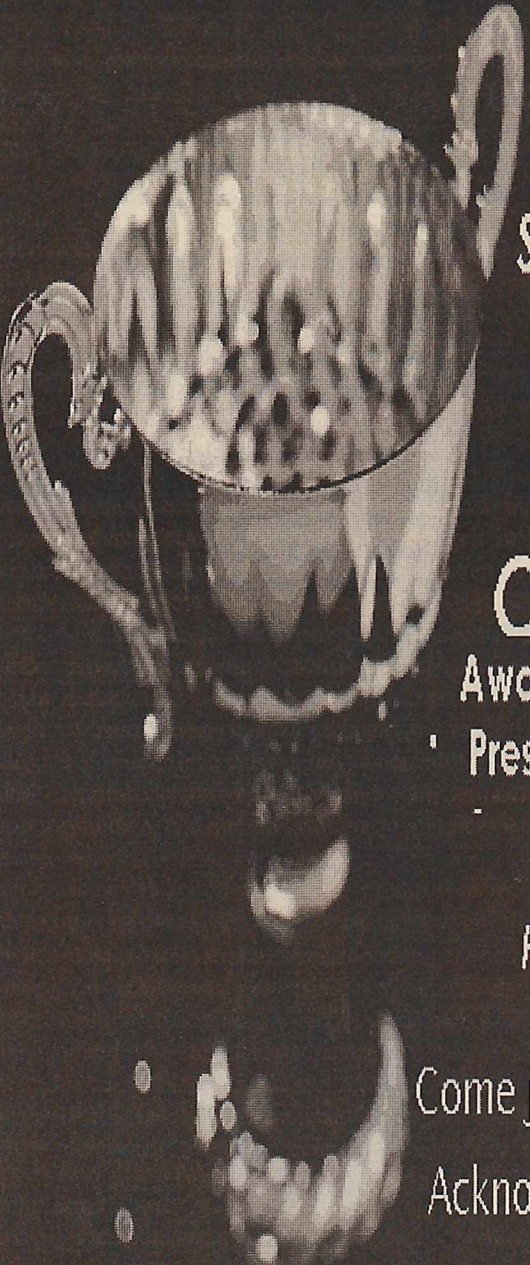
Though Fuller has recently contacted Equal Exchange, he noted, "We have requests everyday from somebody to sell their product locally."

Fuller also brought up the significant efforts of Starbucks to provide all of Suffolk's facilities with the necessary equipment. "That's a huge investment," he commented.

SUSPJ plans to continue collecting signatures if deemed necessary and will look to bring their petition to the Law School cafeteria.

"We have the right to dictate what we want to consume, being the consumers," Curley said, "Even though it might be a little inconvenient [for Sodexho]."

Though Fuller agreed with Curley's statement, he added, "People vote with their money. If people stopped buying [Starbucks] coffee from us then maybe that would be a



The Second Annual
Suffolk University
Samaritan
Awards
Ceremony
Awards will be presented
President David J.

Refreshments and
Hors d'oeuvres will be
served

Come join in the celebration!
Acknowledge the recipients
of these Awards! Share food
and learn more

December 2
12 - 1 PM
Donahue Lobby

For More Information Visit
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The Performing Arts Office is proud to present:

An Evening of Holiday Entertainment

featuring:

*The Suffolk University Chorus
The Suffolk University Dance Team
The Ramifications*

*Tuesday
December 7th
7:00 p.m.
C. Walsh Theatre*

reception to follow

The Performing Arts Office &
**Common Grounds
Coffee House**

Open Mic Night

Bring a song, an instrument or just a friend!

**Wednesday,
Dec. 8th
7:00 p.m.
Don. Cafe**

Opinion

Staff Editorial

A rare moment of transition is about to occur right before all of our eyes. On Fri., Dec. 3 and then again next March, a network news anchor will leave his post. Many people may not see this as a monumental change, but it is.

It's not every day that one of the three network anchormen steps aside. Ask yourself when was the last time this happened?

It was 1983 when the legendary David Brinkley stepped aside, allowing a rather seasoned White House reporter named Tom Brokaw the chance to anchor the NBC Nightly News.

Before that it was the even more legendary Walter Cronkite who stepped aside for Dan Rather. Some will argue that the three major networks are bias or that even the men that anchor the broadcast are. Also it will be argued that the people reporting the news should somewhat resemble the people they cover; this is obviously not the case with three white men in those seats. All of these arguments are worthy of discussion, but it does not underscore the true importance of this changing of the guard.

Soon new faces will adorn our television sets through all that lies ahead of us. Even in an age of around the clock coverage from news organizations around the world, the numbers show, Americans still turn to the three big networks when news breaks and night after night, for their news coverage.

Now we can only hope that the network bigwigs make the right choice for the successor of Dan Rather. NBC already announced that Brian Williams would take Brokaw's seat. Perhaps CBS will choose a journalist of color, or a woman to fill the seat, but we won't hold our breaths.

Dear Suffolk Journal,

Am I to believe that in the entire Suffolk community, there is but one person who can tell a story with a few pictures? Is Chris the only student in the ENTIRE SUFFOLK COMMUNITY that can draw? Is he the only person at Suffolk who has the guts to commit something to ink and submit it for publication?

Where are all the NESAD students? The only evidence that we feature a world class art school is the occasional sight of a portfolio bag on the elevator. I know you students have opinions, but not everyone here stops to read your well designed photocopied flier

on the wall, even if it is in a custom color. Everyone reads the Journal. Get your word out.

I'd love to open the paper on Wednesday and skip past all the words and get to the pictures. Pictures have power, not the lowest common denominator by any means, but they are universal in their understanding.

Dig deep Rams, start with a pencil, get lots of paper and do whatever you do to find that voice. When you're done, walk away and send it to the Journal. Let's give Chris some company in the inky void.

Chris Ogara

The View from Wonderland

Making the wrong, right



By
Mike
Conte

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving that was filled with food, football and more importantly family.

I had a pretty satisfactory Thanksgiving. Wasn't the best one ever, but certainly not the worst. It was what it was.

But that is not what was important, but sometimes I have to tell a long-winded story to get to my point.

Anyways, I was bored Thanksgiving night, so I decided to rent "Wet Hot American Summer." I had caught about 20 minutes of it on Comedy Central and wanted to see more of it.

Thus I traveled to my local video store in Revere, aptly named Video Craze. This establishment has meant a lot of things to a lot of people and has been home to many zany events. I might be overstating its importance, but screw it, it's my column.

I walk in and start talking to the clerk and his girlfriend whom I both know and am good friends with. After swiftly checking out the porn section talking very loudly about porn titles in the vain attempt to make the people there very uncomfortable, I go to seek out my movie.

I eventually spotted "Wet Hot American Summer" and walked out triumphantly with my movie.

I didn't get a chance to watch the damn movie till Saturday night.

I did go out that night to Boston and buy a Heartbreakers CD at Newbury Comics, but I got home early. Anyways, I watched the movie and loved

it. I recommend everyone got out after finishing reading this excellent paper and watch this movie.

It was so good that I wanted to watch all the special features. One feature was cast interviews. As David Hyde Pierce talked, he mentioned his great respect for the Monty Python guys.

This is where the story starts to have a point.

Whenever I hear someone mention Monty Python, I think of this kid from a day camp I used to go to when I was in 5th grade.

Everyone used to make fun of this kid, it got really bad. We used to think he was crazy because all he talked about was how great this Monty Python is and Alice Cooper was his favorite musician.

Keep in mind; we were all in 5th grade. We had no idea who or what Monty Python and Alice Cooper were. At that time I was spoon fed Jim Carrey movies and Coolio singing about Dangerous Minds.

I've come to realize that this kid we had belittled was way ahead of his time. Monty Python is a great comedy troupe and Alice Cooper is an awesome musician.

I just had to grow up and mature to realize this kid was right. The kid knew what he was talking about, stuck to his guns and got persecuted for it.

Unfortunately that type of event has a history of happening and continues to happen.

As I wrap up my thoughts, I wish I had an opportunity to run into this kid someday on the street, shake his hand, apologize on behalf of everybody at that camp and tell him that he was not wrong, just incredible ahead of his time.

Having an opportunity like that is something I could be truly thankful for.

Democratic fall from grace

It would behoove American progressives to look carefully at some recent developments in the political world. The outcome of the elections and the Democratic leadership's response to them have proved conclusively that students,

political bankruptcy of the Democratic Party. Rather than promote a populist alternative to Bush's reactionary, pro-corporate agenda, the Democrats legitimized it by attacking him from the right and submitting one of their own. John Kerry's determination to escalate and "win" the Iraq war, opposition to full civil equality for homosexuals and support for corporate globalization left working people and progressives with no real choice in the election. Voters had to choose between two candidates that advanced a nearly identical political agenda - and why would anyone take a cheap imitation (Kerry) when they could have the real thing (Bush)?

Many are quick to blame the rise of the Christian right and Bush's bigoted campaign strategy for Kerry's loss. We must remember that only 30% of the eligible American electorate voted for Bush; the Republicans won by a scant 3%; and that 43% of eligible voters - who overwhelmingly represent poor and young people - did not show up on Nov. 2. Had Kerry offered these Americans - many of whom are thoroughly disgusted by the Bush administration's repulsive rule - a solid agenda for social change, this large pool of disenfranchised non-voters could have delivered a resounding victory for the Democrats. But it wasn't to be. Instead, Kerry chose to mimic the

Republicans by standing against homosexual rights and playing up his religious leanings.

Some campus 'progressives' have speculated that the Democrats will learn these lessons and develop a more liberal platform. In fact, the exact opposite is happening - the Democrats are accelerating their shift toward the political right. This is most evident in their selection of Senator Harry Reid to replace Tom Daschle as Senate Minority Leader. Reid is well known for his opposition to a woman's right to choose (not to mention gay marriage), which he bases on a Mormon belief system. The multitude of American women who continue to back the Democrats as a last-ditch attempt to forestall the Republican crackdown on abortion rights should pay special attention to this. Less striking, unfortunately, is the fact that Reid has enthusiastically backed the Bush administration's imperial takeover of Iraq since day one.

By choosing pro-war bigots like Reid to lead their party and by consistently refusing to back any progressive reform in this country (whether it pertains to the war, homosexual rights, the environment, civil liberties, healthcare, a living wage, or anything else), the Democrats themselves have thoroughly belied the idea that pro-

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Jake Hess

working people and other marginalized elements of society cannot rely on that party to make the changes we want to see in America. It is now inescapable that we must, for the sake of our future, break with the Democratic Party and begin to construct a true political opposition that puts the interests of normal people at the top of its agenda.

People across the world are asking themselves "how could Bush win?" The real question, though, is "how could Kerry lose?" Given the nature of their opponent - which has dragged us into an abject quagmire in Iraq, oversaw the transformation of the largest budget surplus in history into the most crippling debt we've ever experienced, presided over a steady rise in poverty and assaulted our civil liberties and the environment with renewed vigor - it should have been a cakewalk for the Democrats.

The answer lays in the absolute

Humorously Speaking

The Great Holiday Shopping Fiasco



By
Michael
Fruzzetti

It was an early Friday morning, me and the open road, with barely any cars on the road. Where were all of the other cars you ask. Every person is at Wal-Mart and the local shopping mall, waiting to wreak havoc in the aisles while juggling their children, televisions, appliances and toys. You better believe I was the guy trampling old ladies to get a \$30 DVD player and I was definitely the guy who reaped the savings from the Thanksgiving giveaways.

Despite my painful hangover from Wild Turkey and my new gut from all the turkey and fixings, I rolled out of bed (literally) and made my way to the local mall.

Upon my arrival, I was welcomed by a mile-long line at the mall entrance that was mostly filled with Caravans and Suburbans, packed to maximum capacity (15 people) with nauseatingly annoying children, reckless parents and grandparents with aisle-blocking walkers. My assumption that grandparents stayed home and watched The Price is Right and children glued their eyes to the tube to watch cartoons, was completely wrong.

After making it through the entranceway, which was just a pre-test, it was now time for the big challenge. This is where the four-letter words and finger flipping begins. Trying to find a spot is always a challenge and since it is too early in the morning for people to be leaving the mall, the stalking method will not work.

I circled a few lots and finally I came to a spot where my car would fit conveniently between two beastly vehicles. I knew there would be two different colored racing stripes on the side of my car when I came back, but that is the sacrifice I had to make in order to purchase cheaper Christmas gifts.

Well now that I made it into the mall, it was time to walk around and swipe the credit card until my arm went numb.

My first trip was to Filenes where I had seen a painting that was on sale. In addition to the cheap painting, there was a large sale on bath linens; the perfect opportunity to pick up some cheap towels for myself. Because this was the largest sale in the store, every mini-van driving parent and their children were rummaging through the towels. For the next 45 minutes I was forced to listen to whining kids, parents screaming their missing kids' name and complaints that the items weren't cheap enough even with the 65 percent off: "I thought this was supposed to be a sale, not a robbery. JONATHAN!"

By now my headache has gone from a tiny ache to a severe migraine and I only had one name checked off of my list of 15 people. My next stop was Abercrombie and Fitch. Usually I have to use the mall

directory to find the location of the store, but Abercrombie has made it easier for customers to find their store. They play music with the most intense bass, which you can hear from anywhere in the mall. You walk into the store and are forced to cover your ears in fear of losing one of your five senses. I quickly grab two shirts for myself, one for another person on my list, and as I looked down at my coat and saw three noticeable stains on the front, a rip in the sleeve and broken zipper, I made my way to the coat rack and snagged the last large-sized jacket.

With my arms filled with \$500 worth of merchandise, I walked over to the seemingly short checkout line. While ringing up my merchandise the cashier entered an item for the incorrect amount. So I said, "I think that was supposed to be on sale." "Huh?" he replied. Rather than struggling to save five more dollars, I ignored this mistake and replied by saying, "No wonder why the line is so short, the workers here are ignorant and the music is too loud." "Yeah sure. I can give you gift receipts."

With four hours lost, only two people finished and \$600 dollars down the drain - \$400 spent on myself - it was about time I grabbed a burger and fries from the food court. At six dollars for a "we love screwing the customer" meal from McDonalds, I got my three-course meal and proceeded to find a seat.

It was not a difficult challenge to find a table, but it was certainly not easy to find one that did not have recently chewed gum pasted to the seat, or chunks of food scattered around the table. Infuriated, I walked back to my freshly dented, yet not painted, car and ate my food.

As I was about to walk out of the mall there was a Yankee Candle, which was a final stop to eliminate one more item from my list. Before walking into the store I sucked in all the semi-clean air in hopes of not having to inhale the assortment of nasal burning scents.

I quickly grabbed a handful of candles without seeing what scents were in my hands, and maneuvered through the dozen baby carriages that stood in between me and the cashiers. Upon turning blue in the face, I was forced to take one more large breath before I could escape. I inhaled through my nose the worst smell known to man. It was not the flowery aroma I was expecting, but rather the smell of soiled Huggies. As if it wasn't bad enough already.

My final thought is: Unless you want to sit in long lines, listen to parents scold their children and obtain a piercing migraine, just stay at home and shop online. Just today I found a perfect gift on Ebay and it was at a cheaper price than any store could offer.

I bought myself a Seinfeld DVD as a Christmas gift. I get my shopping done quicker when I'm using the internet, but no matter how or where I do it, I always seem to end up with a new wardrobe and increased collection of movies.

Out of Left Field

Drunken motorists rule the roads



By
Garrett M.
Quinn

After a night of celebrating his 20th birthday with friends, Rich Hegerich's life was tragically cut short by a drunk driver. The University of New Hampshire student was walking home alone the night of Nov. 21, when fellow UNH student Kevin Whitaker, 19 of Nashua, ran him down with his car. Whitaker was so drunk that he did not stop after the collision and continued driving. A little after 1 a.m. Whitaker was stopped by UNH police officer Kendra Neri. She pulled Whitaker over for a faulty headlight and was eventually arrested. Officer Neri may have prevented the drunk-punk from taking another life so traumatically. Unfortunately, Whitaker is only

charged with driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident. Due to laughable drunk driving statutes Whitaker will face a maximum of eight years in jail and a \$2,000 slap on the wrist, if convicted. Hopefully he is charged with vehicular homicide and receives his just due because Rich never will.

"He was always looking out for other people," said Rob Miller, his volleyball teammate at Hanover High School where he graduated from in 2003. Rich was active in his local parish as a Eucharistic Minister, too. At UNH he was a member of the men's swim team. Friends and family described him as "a loving and caring person."

Unfortunately, Rich's story isn't a new one.

On the night of Nov. 23, Matt Lynch, 21, of Scituate was riding shotgun with his intoxicated

see DRINKING, page 8

Shepard legacy misguides public

The poster boy for the "hate crimes" movement in America is Matthew Shepard, the 21-year-old gay college student savagely beaten and killed by two young men in Laramie, Wyoming in 1998. Even before any

Ryan F. Boehm

facts were collected, homosexual activists jumped at the chance to capitalize on this horrible crime to forward their radical political agenda.

The media was more than happy to run with the hate crime story and the rest was history ... until now. In a blatant attack on freedom of speech and freedom of the press, an agreement, signed by the judge, banned one defendant, his two public defenders and the entire public defenders office from ever speaking to the media about the case.

This meant that what was said in the trial would never be known ... until now.

The ABC news magazine "20/20" revealed Friday, through numerous interviews with many connected to the case, including the two men convicted of the crime, a very different scene than that painted in the months and years following in documentaries, television movies and a play.

Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson were convicted of the murder of Matthew Shepard and will spend the rest of their lives in the prison for it. But as "20/20" discovered, it was not Shepard's sexuality that motivated the two that night, but drugs, and the prosecutor in the case agrees.

McKinney, a well-known user and dealer within the methamphetamine community, was on a drug binge for about a week leading up to the murder, according to a friend and drug associate at the time.

McKinney told "20/20" that on the night of the crime, he set out to rob a drug dealer of \$10,000 worth of methamphetamine, but was unsuccessful, and went with Henderson to the Fireside Lounge. Henderson explains that it was his hope that if McKinney continued drinking, he would calm down. It was here, he says, that a well-dressed Shepard asked for a ride and the two agreed with the intention of robbing him.

After McKinney was successful in getting Shepard to give up his wallet, he continued to beat him.

Explaining why he did this, he told "20/20," "I've attacked my best friends coming off of meth binges."

After leaving Shepard tied to a fence, the two headed back into town where McKinney again went on the attack, this time against two young vandals, fracturing the skull of one.

Prosecutor Cal Rerucha attributes McKinney's rage and his savage beating of Shepard to his drug

abuse. "The methamphetamine just fueled to this point where there was no control. It was a horrible, horrible, horrible murder. It was a murder that was once again driven by drugs," Rerucha said.

The hate crime theory was further fueled by statements made to police and the media by Kristin Price, McKinney's girlfriend, who now admits to "20/20" that her statements were false and intended to lessen the burden on McKinney by portraying his violence as a panic reaction to an unwanted sexual advance.

The "20/20" report also quotes former Laramie Police Detective Ben Fritzen, one of the lead investigators in the case, saying, "Matthew Shepard's sexual preference or sexual orientation certainly wasn't the motive in the homicide. If it wasn't Shepard, they would have found another easy target. What it came down to really is drugs and money and two punks that were out looking for it."

In addition to the revelations about the motivation behind the murder, "20/20" reports that the widely held belief that McKinney and Shepard had never met before the night of the crime may also be false. While McKinney continues to deny having met Shepard before, but "20/20" has a "number of sources" that say the two were not strangers.

None of these new developments change the fact that an innocent young man was murdered and that two other young men will be spending the rest of their lives behind bars.

But they do demonstrate the lengths to which the homosexual movement will go to further their agenda and just how willing the media is to help them.

Americans should feel threatened to know that so-called "hate crime" legislation is just a clever way to write into law political and religious censorship.

Canada and Sweden already have laws on the books that consider any critical discussion of homosexuality to be a "hate crime." A pastor in Sweden was arrested at his church after he read Bible verses about homosexuality. Does this sound like something our Founding Fathers would support?

Violence against anyone, whether they are gay or straight, black or white, male or female, should be condemned and those who perpetrate such crimes should have the full force of the law brought down upon them.

But these heinous acts should not be used as tools to force a radical agenda that criminalizes "thought" and most definitely should not be used to curtail the right of the people to know the truth.

Dawn of a new party

REFORM from page 6

gressives can "infiltrate" or otherwise influence their party and push it leftward. We ignore this fact at our own peril. The real question facing us now is how to pull confused liberals away from the Democratic trap and build a fighting party of the American working class.

Progressives should begin to lay the groundwork of a party that works for such policies as a universal living wage; full equality for homosexuals; free abortion on demand; an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq; a drastic reduction of the defense budget and increased spending on urban development; free healthcare and education for all; preservation and protection of the environment and investment in sustainable energy sources; and so on.

Lapdogs for the Democrats and self-styled "realists" will no doubt object that these changes are "impossible."

Under the current profit-driven system, and using their strategy of sycophantically hanging onto the coattails of the Democratic Party, they are correct. We can never expect

justice for oppressed people so long as capitalism - which ensures that unelected, unaccountable, and avaricious businesspeople control both the vital resources people need to live a fruitful life and the means to produce them - is the cornerstone of our political system. Parties like the Democrats - which are bought and owned by and comprised of the corporate oligarchs that control this country - will never make such changes, as it would be antithetical to the exploitative system they're committed to and benefit from.

We progressives have three choices. First, we can do nothing. Second, we can resign ourselves to the so-called "reality" of this awful system and continue to hopelessly back a burlesque mockery of an opposition party that earnestly opposes virtually everything we believe in. Finally, we can resurrect the rich tradition of American struggle and fight for a better country and world.

As the relatively new saying goes, a better America (and world) is possible. Whether or not one comes into being is exclusively our choice.

Deadly drivers endanger others

DRINKING from page 7

"friend" Ryan Hughes, 20, when he lost control of his SUV and crashed into a telephone poll. The crash sent Matt hurdling through the windshield. You would think the force of the crash would bring Hughes back to a sober state.

Instead, Hughes got out of his car and checked the damage to his car. Screaming and kicking about the damage - but not his friend - Hughes woke area residents before going back in the car and leaving. Apparently, his car was more important to him than his friend because Hughes left Matt to die in the middle of the street.

After speaking with police Hughes is now charged with vehicular homicide, driving to endanger, and leaving the scene of an accident. According to interviews conducted by the *Patriot Ledger*, friends described Lynch as "never in a bad mood" and "hilarious." He worked hard as a landscaper and took care of his grandmother. He had a love for all things baseball and fortunately lived to see his Red Sox win it all this year.

Jai Aggarwal was on his way to help a friend experiencing car trouble during the early hours of Nov 25 when he himself began to experience car trouble.

While fixing his windshield, the Northeastern Graduate and small business owner, was struck by Amy Jennings. Jennings, 26, was drinking at the time of incident, according to published reports.

Jennings stuck to the pattern and fled the accident. She was charged with vehicular homicide, DUI, leaving the scene of an accident and negligent operation. Meanwhile, Jai's promising future as a web designer and businessman slowly slipped away on the side of the Mass Pike. *The Boston Herald* quoted a family friend describing Jai saying "He was very hard working, just a very bright boy." He would have received his masters next spring.

Rich, Matt and Jai will be forever remembered by their friends and family. They're not the only ones who need to remember him, though. When we're out drinking and having a good time we need to remember Rich and the smile he brought to people. We need to remember Matt telling a joke and making people laugh.

We need to remember Jai and his diligent work ethic. We need to remember what could have been for these young men. We can't allow ourselves to be irresponsible like Whitaker, Hughes and Jennings. Next time you're at party or out with some friends having a good time don't be stupid. Know your limit and be responsible. Don't let yourself become one of the 17,000 annual fatalities related to drunk driving. Don't drink and drive.

*This column contains information from reports in the *Boston Globe*, *Boston Herald*, *Union Leader*, *Portsmouth Herald News* and *The Patriot Ledger*.

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"Who has put me here?"
—Pascal

Isaiah 40:26

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these? He who brings
out the starry host one by one, and
calls them each by name...

Psalms 139:13-14

You made all the delicate, inner parts
of my body and knit me together in my
mother's womb. Thank you for making
me so wonderfully complex! Your work-
manship is marvelous...



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Arts & Entertainment

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

The Suffolk Journal

9

Audiences should move away from 'Closer'



Amanda Bellamy

Journal Staff

While Jude Law once showed promise as a young actor in small films like "Gattaca" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley," lately he seems unable to play characters that aren't Jude Law. "Closer," opening Dec. 3 is no exception. The collective brilliance of Julia Roberts and Law's movie stardom, eclipse a potentially revealing and honest film.

Based on a London stage production, "Closer" attempts to take an insightful and revealing look at modern relationships. Some may champion the film as perceptive and biting, but the characters are base, immoral and selfish.

Two couples, the successful and older Clive Owen and Julia Roberts and inexperienced, younger Natalie Portman and Jude

Law redefine conventional relationship boundaries.

Despite being responsible for the most vulgar dialogue of the film, Owen as Larry delivers the most enjoyable performance. The scene-stealer gives a dynamic performance, fluctuating from devious, to angry, to funny. He could easily charm the pants off of anyone.

As Alice, Portman proves herself a reliable and endearing actress yet again. Her manipulative, yet vulnerable Alice plays well against Owen's cheeky Larry. Yet Alice's random and charming persona is reminiscent of her equaling endearing character from "Garden State."

However, separating Alice from Sam, is the purposeful infliction of pain on others. Alice the stripper is cunning and crafty, deceiving the entire audience for a minor

and pointless surprise ending. A chance encounter between the sprite from New York and London obituary writer, Law, leads to a reckless romance.

Law eventually pens a novel, detailed Alice's past a stripper. While posing for a portrait, Law falls hard and fast for photographer Anna, Roberts.

Roberts and Law carry on an affair, despite their romantic entanglements with Portman and Owen. In a predictable twist, Owen and Portman take to bed in hopes of revenge.

However, when Owen encounters the baby-faced Portman in a strip club, the following private lap dance proves the most entertaining and provocative. Portman sheds her child star image along with her lingerie.

Physical attraction rather than love pre-

vails throughout this movie and is best displayed in this memorable scene.

With ridiculous ease, the characters change beds and partners. Law shows little remorse as Portman breaks down in his arms.

The two have shared a three-year relationship, in which Law has been seeing Roberts for one year. During this time Roberts has married Owen, despite her affair.

While the filmmakers are trying to challenge viewers, they repulse us instead. There is little more than lust tying these four together. Each professes their love, but display very little.

As Portman says in the film, "Where is this love? I can't see it, I can't touch it, I can't feel it." Audiences will be murmuring the same thing.

Chick lit dominates the best of 2004

One of the Journal's Staff writers lists her top five books of the year.

Diana Rossi

Journal Staff

First off, let me just say that I did not read "The Da Vinci Code", nor do I have any desire to, so it will not be on this list. Deal with it. Other than the phenomenon that was the cult of the "Code", 2004 did supply a few other noteworthy books amidst a plethora of celebrity autobiographies and political satire. I did not read any of these because I am a "chick" and I like "chick" books. The closest I came to reading anything like this was listening to my roommate recite excerpts from George Carlin's "When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?"

From all the books I did read, I have compiled a little list I like to call "The Books That Didn't Suck in 2004." Catchy title, huh? On it you'll find a not-too-sappy love story, an emotionally powerful tale of self-reliance and empowerment, a quirky and hilarious Bridget Jones-esque love tale and one unbelievably amazing story that makes you think.

First up is James Patterson's "Sam's Letters to Jennifer". If this title sounds at all familiar to you, it should, because I'm sure you all read my "Best of Summer" review of it, right? If you didn't, shame on you, but here's a little something to catch you up.

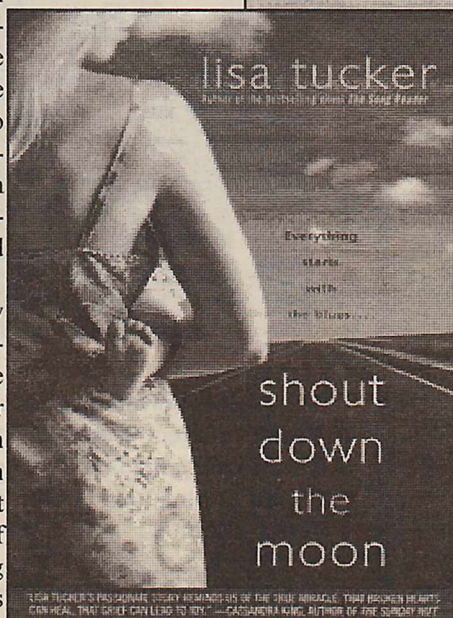
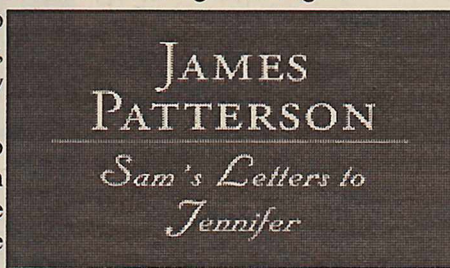
The bare-minimum basic premise of the story is the question "Have you ever gotten a letter that changed your life completely?" When Jennifer's beloved grandmother Sam

falls into a coma, Jennifer stays in her house and finds a stack of letters with her name on them. Sam has left those letters for her to read one by one in an attempt to explain life and love to Jennifer, while divulging juicy family secrets along the way.

Jennifer has lost her husband to a diving accident and her unborn child from the trauma of it and she thought she would never love again until Sam's letters give her the strength to find amazing love in an unexpected place.

Mystery and suspense writer Patterson does an excellent job of rebounding from his first romantic novel "Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas" with "Sam's Letters to Jennifer". It delivers a powerful story of love against

all odds on more levels than one and brilliantly debunks the notion that you can never go home again.



is just trying to raise her two-year-old son, forget about her past and her newly released husband she put in jail, all the while singing the blues in a band that writes her off as just another pretty face. When her husband comes back to get his wife and son, or kill her trying, she must trust in her talent and herself to get her through.

Lisa Tucker's acclaimed debut, "The Song Reader", catapulted her as a luminous

Next up is Lisa Tucker's second novel, "Shout Down the Moon". With the tagline "everything starts with the blues," "Shout" is a somewhat heroic tale of Patty Taylor who

new writer and she defends that title with her emotional, page-turner follow-up.

Tucker somehow knows exactly what to say to allow her readers to identify with her heroine in one way or another.

Even though the story itself may be just a tad far-fetched, Tucker makes it weirdly believable, forcing the reader to find even just a little bit of themselves in Patty Taylor. Sophie Kinsella, of the "Confessions of a Shopaholic" series, introduces us to a brand new lovable character in her hilarious love story, "Can You Keep a Secret?" For fans of "Bridget Jones' Diary" came a wry, coincidental story about Emma Corrigan, a woman who spills all her deep, dark secrets to a handsome stranger on a plane.

Emma thought nothing could get worse than a complete stranger knowing every humiliating detail, until it turns out that her handsome stranger is actually Jack Harper, her company's elusive CEO. In a predictable turn of events, Emma and Jack begin a secret love affair until Emma learns that Jack has a few secrets of his own.

Kinsella continues to do an amazing job of creating a character that could very well be your best friend. Emma's secrets, at least some of them, could be your own and to be completely honest, some of them are.

Go on, you can admit it. It's ok to lie about your weight to your boyfriend, or to pour orange juice into a snobby co-worker's plant, or even to admit that you have no idea see **BOOKS**, page 10

MFA offers free admission for tight budgets

Deborah Levison

Journal Staff

Don't people say that the best things in life are free? While that may be true, a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts is almost free, but nonetheless can fall into the "best things" category. All Suffolk students in the College of Arts and Sciences have free general admissions to the MFA.

This is a great opportunity for everyone from CAS because other than the exhibits that the museum usually carries, there are special exhibits like the highly praised Art Deco exhibit that will run until Jan. 9.

This exhibit is amazing for its diversity in materials. There are photography, fashion and paintings among other media that all explore and celebrate the sophisticated design which composed Art Deco.

This particular exhibit has a special rate of \$7.00 for students with the valid CAS sticker. Compared to the full-price of \$22.00, it is safe to say that this is a pretty good deal.

There is a wide-range of events to do in the MFA other than the art collections. All of these are available to students at discounted prices. One of the most popular choices is the film program which has special screenings of local, regional and foreign films. There are also showcases of different



Photo courtesy of MFA

Boston's Museum of Fine Arts offers international film festivals and discounted admission to college students.

films that have never been seen in Boston. The best part about this particular program are the film festivals held at the museum.

For example, throughout this year they have done the Boston Jewish Film Festival, the Boston French Festival and the Festival of Films from Iran. Other programs include musical performances such as flamenco, tango and opera recitals. There are also concerts with folk, jazz and world music.

Frequent lectures are offered about the exhibits held at the Museum. One can visit the Museum and join a free tour (which are held throughout the day) and will be able to learn about almost all sections of the museum in depth.

There are free guided tours on the Museum itself, art of Asia, art of the Americas, art of Europe and an introductory tour of all the Museum's collections. Other

lectures include the dramatic reading of Homer's "Iliad". The poem is performed by five actors that bring to life the fundamental scenes of Homer's tragedy.

The film is directed by David Muse, assistant director of the Shakespeare Theatre along with commentaries by Gregory Nagy and Francis Jones, professor of Classical Greek Literature at Harvard University.

Classes and workshops are also available to the public. In December there will be a one-day workshop for teenagers and adults on fusing glass. These classes will begin with a special introduction to the Museum's collection of glass art and techniques needed for the specific course.

The students go from the MFA to Diablo (in the Mission Hill district) to work. All the materials are provided including areas for stained glass and flame working, a kiln area for slumping, fusing and metal casting.

All their classes are offered in an introductory level, but spaces are limited and coveted so it would be wise to register early.

So, instead of staying in watching Sex and the City re-runs or playing Playstation during a rainy Saturday afternoon, go to the MFA for a cheap yet educational and pleasantly artful day.

The Museum of Fine Arts is accessible through the green T line, E trolley at the Museumstop.

The 5 books you should have read this summer

BOOKS from page 9

what NATO stands for. Emma Corrigan is the new Bridget Jones - expect the movie version anytime now.

Ok, this might be breaking the rules of the whole "Best of 2004" thing, but my favorite book of 2004 is "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom.

This book came out in 2003, but technically, since I read it in 2004, I can put it on my list.

Wait, you know what? This is my list, so I can do whatever I want. I don't need to explain myself to you!

"The Five People You Meet in Heaven" is about a man who dies saving a young girl from a collapsing ride at the amusement park he works at. While in heaven, Eddie meets up with five people who had an impact on his life that he may or may not have known about.

Among them is: his wife, the namesake of his amusement park, his army captain, a man whose life was changed forever by Eddie as a child and one last surprising person. In meeting these people, Eddie learns

the secrets of his life, why things happened and what his purpose was.

With "The Five People You Meet in Heaven", Mitch Albom gives us a powerfully original story about life and the after life, making us forget everything we ever thought about death.

On a side note, on Dec. 5, ABC will be airing its movie version of this compelling novel, starring Jon Voight, Ellen Burstyn, Jeff Daniels and Michael Imperioli.

So, if you don't want to read the book (even though I strongly recommend it), you should at least watch the movie, because this is one story everyone should know.

If you are looking for something to do over break and you're just a little sick of drinking yourself into oblivion (hey, it could happen), read at least one or all of these books.

Give yourself a rest from "The Da Vinci Code" or whatever other heavy, popular, "it" book of the moment you are reading, and pick up a "chick" book.

You'd be surprised at how much you might like it.

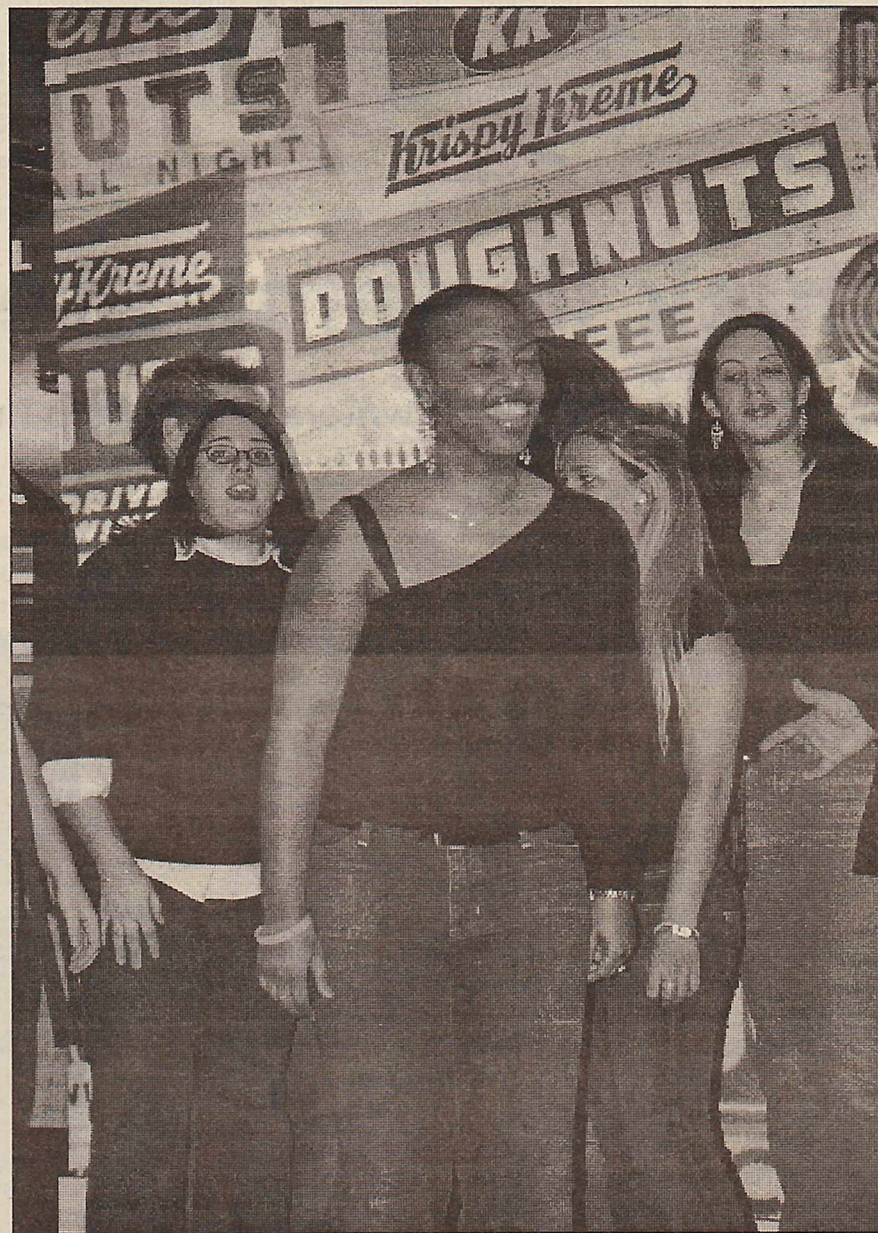
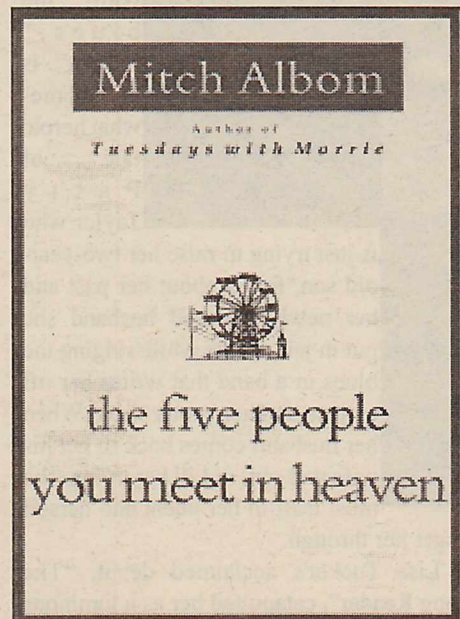


Photo courtesy of Kathy Maloney

The Suffolk University a cappella group, The Ramifications, performed at Krispy Kreme on Wednesday, Nov. 17. As part of the Krispy Kreme Concert Series, the Rams sang outside of the store in the Prudential Center. The Ramifications will be performing next in the Performing Arts Holiday Concert on Dec. 7 in the C. Walsh Theatre.



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New student group stands behind Palestine

Rose Francois
Journal Staff

A controversial new group on Suffolk's campus this semester is raising eyebrows and awareness.

Suffolk Student's for Palestine is an organization dedicated to increasing knowledge on the political and human right's issues of Palestinians. Though this new club has had much to endure since they've become an official organization, gaining that status alone was a hard road. "We faced trouble getting registered last year," said President Jake Hess. "We had trouble finding a faculty advisor."

The concept of the organization had been in the works ever since last year, when a group of students sharing the same ideas about Palestine wished to become a registered club.

Earlier this semester, this goal was finally realized when Robert Laffey of the Government Department took on the role of faculty advisor for the group. "A lot of peo-

ple are afraid to come out in support of Palestine," said Hess.

Proponents of Suffolk Students for Palestine feel that it's important to tell the tale of the other side of this age-old conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis, a side that many in the organization do not believe is ever shown in America. "Support for Palestine is just seen as wrong," said Hess, who believes that those who show support for Palestine are "smeared anti-Semitic."

It is evident that not everyone is so enthusiastic about the new group; there are those on campus who object to its very existence and what is being advocated. "People are generally interested in what we are doing ... but we have had a few combative instances," stated Hess. There have been occurrences where individuals passing by the organization's table, set up in the Donahue lobby, have argued with members of the organization.

One such instance that Hess recalls was when a person of the opposing viewpoint declared that to end the conflict, all Palestinians should be killed or sent to Jordan.

Members of Students for Palestine who are confronted with such anger attribute it mostly to a lack of information. "They don't show any knowledge of the issue," said Hess, regarding individuals who attempt to argue based on what he sees as stereotypes and misinformation.

Hess and his supporters find that the US media have covered the conflict with so much bias that many citizens believe stereotypes that negatively affect their view of Palestinians. Always a touchy subject, support for Palestine is a welcomed change for new members. Seeing people that actually care about the occupation is one of the main reasons that freshman Yomna Saleh joined the organization.

The 18-year-old psychology major was interested about the group after a friend mentioned it to her. "I feel that the issues are important," Saleh said.

The group's first event, a presentation of

the film "Palestine is Still the Issue," was held on Nov. 4. On Nov. 29, the group observed the International Day of Solidarity, designed to highlight the plight of Palestinians, and supporters were encouraged to wear black armbands on campus. The day was also the anniversary of when Israel and Palestine were officially divided by the United Nations in 1947.

An important part of the Students for Palestine's overall agenda is to raise awareness of US and Israeli policies that the organization sees as disparaging to Palestinians.

The United States' involvement in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has always been a controversial subject and one that divides many in the United States. Members of the Suffolk Students for Palestine want more than anything for the university to take away new information from their group. "There are two sides to every story," stated Saleh, who hopes, "people will get more information about the situation and get more involved."

Homeless in the city

HOMELESS from page 3

McDonald House and the Children's Hospital. On Christmas Eve of 2003, Evans received the present she had finally been waiting for. After spending 12 months out on the streets, she obtained housing through the Section 8 voucher after filling out more applications. Evans continues to volunteer, free lance for various publications and work as a homelessness activist. Currently, she is working to get a scholarship which will enable her to put together a resource guide and computer database for the homeless - which would give detailed information about shelters in the Boston area. While she was homeless, Evans stressed the impor-

tance of the items she found at the shelters. While at a shelter, Evans knew a girl who had just been hired at a new job, but the girl was going to be fired because she did not have a white work shirt. "There weren't any shirts, so I donated. And because she got that shirt she was able to keep her job. In the big scheme of things, she would've lost her job and would've had to go searching again. It's the little things that can make a big impact," Evans said.

To read Crystal Evan's Live Journal, visit <http://being-homeless.com>

Hockey takes first win of the season

HOCKEY from page 12

Ryan Coakley scored his team leading third goal of the year and also added an assist in the win.

The Rams saw junior goalie Greg Blais stuff 42 shots in his third start this season. The team was finally able to get a hard fought victory under their belts.

Before their impressive win against WNEC, Suffolk dropped

Men's Hockey Record
1-3-0

coach Chris Glionna.

"Everyone played with more discipline, and the younger kids have started to adjust more to the college game."

It is clear that the Rams are improving in all areas with each game that passes. Since the first game of the season, penalties have been a problem for Glionna's team. In the Ram's loss to Johnson and Wales, Suffolk committed 20 penalties.

However, in the Rams' recent victory against Western New England, that number was reduced to eight. The team is averaging 14.2 penalties per game this year, while their opponents are averaging 12.2.

Glionna said, "If we can keep it at eight penalties or less in each game, we will be in every game."

The Rams have a grueling schedule waiting ahead of them. The team's next game will be against Franklin Pierce College on Wednesday, Dec. 1, and will be held at Boston University.

After Franklin Pierce, the Rams will take on Worcester State and Salve Regina in hopes to improve in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Northeast standings.

Only the top eight teams in the standings make the playoffs, which places an even greater importance on Suffolk's upcoming conference math-ups.

their first three games, including the season opener against Stonehill College.

The Rams came up short against Wentworth, which was ranked number two in the preseason coaches' poll.

Suffolk was ranked number five prior to the start of the season but was dealt a hefty blow by Wentworth, losing by a score of 5-2. The Rams took home a third loss against Johnson and Wales University, which was ranked last in the preseason coaches' poll. Suffolk went down hard again, dropping the game 6-2.

Yet, the team turned things against Western New England. "This was by far our best effort of the season," commented head

Ram's Schedule

Men's Basketball: <i>Dec. 2 @ UMass Boston</i> <i>Dec. 4 @ Brandeis</i> Hockey: <i>Dec. 1 Franklin Pierce</i> <i>Dec. 4 Worcester State</i>	Women's Basketball: <i>Dec. 2 Vs. Curry</i> <i>Dec. 4 @ Merry Monk</i> <i>Tourney Vs. Bates</i> <i>Dec. 5 @ Merry Monk</i> <i>Tourney Vs. TBA</i>
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sports

Brief

Men's Basketball beats the buzzer

The Suffolk University men's basketball team recorded its first win Saturday, Nov. 27, in a 69-68 last second thriller over MIT. Sophomore guard Chris Devlin scored the winning basket with only one second left, allowing the Ram's to take home the win in dramatic and heroic fashion. Junior Josh Morelock went 10-13 from the field, finishing with 20 points and 11 rebounds in the Ram's first win of the season. Sophomore Brad Schoonmaker added 16 points, while fellow sophomore John Murphy dropped 14, to give MIT its first loss of the season. As a team, Suffolk went 27-57 from the floor.

The Rams improved to 1-2 on the year with the victory and the team currently finds itself in sixth place in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference standings early on in the season.

Suffolk opened the year with two straight defeats. The first came at the hands of Framingham State in a 56-63 loss, which was followed by a 55-89 blowout to the University of New Hampshire.

Morelock is currently fourth in the league in rebounding, with 28 boards and an average of 9.3 per game. He is first in offensive rebounds in the GNAC with 15. Murphy stands third in the league in steals with 11 in the first three games this season.

Rich Parenteau-Sports Editor

Sports

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The Suffolk Journal

Wednesday, December 1, 2004



Rams put losing streak 'on ice'

Mike Miccoli

Journal Staff

Just as everyone at Suffolk University was getting ready to go home for a much-needed week of rest, relaxation and turkey, the Rams hockey team earned their first win of the young 2004 season.

Suffolk snapped their three-game losing streak at Steretti Rink in the North End on Tuesday, Nov. 23, when they defeated Western New England College by a score of 4-3. The win lifted the Rams to 1-3 overall.

Senior Bill Corcoran led the way for the Rams with a goal and two assists, giving him a total of four points on the season. Freshman

see HOCKEY, page 11

Ashley Gaffney-Suffolk Athletics Photographer

University Dateline

For more information for getting your event listed in Dateline
contact the Student Activities Office at (617) 573-8320.

Wednesday, December 1

"Finals Fuel" for Commuter Students
Free Beverage during Finals Week
Coupons available at the HUB
Career Doctor
11:30am-12:30pm Sawyer Lobby

Peace Walk Noon-12:30pm
Meet outside Donahue Building

Basic Understanding of the Catholic Church 3-4pm Interfaith Center, Donahue 540

Graduate Information Session
6-7:30pm Omni Parker House Hotel

Commuter Pizza Dinner for Celtics
Game Ticketholders 5:30pm D- 535

Celtics vs. the Milwaukee Bucks
Sponsored by Program Council
7-10pm Fleet Center
Residence Hall Catholic Mass

7:30pm 10 Somerset

Thursday, December 2

Suffolk Samaritan Awards Ceremony
Noon-1pm Donahue Lobby
S.O.U.L.S. Food for Thought
Noon-1pm S.O.U.L.S. Office
Donahue 424
Suffolk Students for Palestine
1pm Donahue 218A
Defeating Peace: US/Israeli Policy
Discussion 6pm Law School, Room 285

Friday, December 3

Who's Who Applications Due Today
Due by 5pm Office of Student Activities

Buddhist Meditation and Mindfulness
11am-Noon Interfaith Center, D-540

Yoga/Qi Gong 1-2pm Interfaith Center,
Donahue 540

Saturday, December 4

Decorate Beacon Hill for the Holidays
9:30am-12:30pm Meet at the Donahue Lobby
SSOM Undergraduate Day
1-4pm The Rack
Graduate Student Holiday Ball
6pm-Midnight Holiday Inn Select at Government Center

Sunday, December 5

New York City Day Trip
5am Departure Tickets at the HUB

Monday, December 6

Career Doctor
11:30am-12:30pm Donahue Lobby

Tuesday, December 7

Relaxation Day
Massages, Regression Tables, Relaxing Music, and More
Noon-2pm Donahue 403